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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 74  
By Hargett

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the officers and members of the Bartlett Garden Club on seventy years of dedicated service.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those exemplary clubs and organizations that are celebrating milestones in their venerable history; and

WHEREAS, the Bartlett Garden Club is one such outstanding club, which has diligently served the Bartlett community for seventy years; and

WHEREAS, in celebration of this landmark anniversary, the members of the Bartlett Garden Club held a formal tea, on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February 2001, at the Life Enrichment Center of the Bartlett United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, the formal tea, free and open to the public, featured a historical display of the club's yearbooks dating from 1939 to present, as well as flower show schedules since 1954; and

WHEREAS, the Bartlett Garden Club was founded by Miss Mabel Richmond in 1931, and held its first meeting in her home "Broadlawn"; and

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WHEREAS, Miss Richmond, a former Bartlett High School teacher, formed the club when she was ill and housebound; for the many years that the members of the Bartlett Garden Club met in her home, they were provided lunch by her housekeeper, who was known to be an excellent cook; and

WHEREAS, today the club meets, in alternating members' homes, at 10 a.m., on the second Wednesday of each month to discuss club business and partake of light refreshments; and

WHEREAS, the Bartlett Garden Club was federated in 1935, and is a member of the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc., the Deep South Region, the Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., District I, and the Memphis and Shelby County Area Council of Garden Clubs; and

WHEREAS, the Bartlett Garden Club is one of the oldest clubs in West Tennessee, and is valued for its history, as well as its numerous past and present accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, over the last seven decades, the Bartlett Garden Club has sponsored many successful flower shows, plant sales, and other valuable programs that have benefited and beautified the Bartlett community; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the requirements of the federation, the members of the Garden Club hold a Standard Flower Show every other year; and

WHEREAS, the accomplished members of the Bartlett Garden Club have duly won many national, state, and regional honors; four members of the club studied and worked to become accredited judges; and

WHEREAS, on a Saturday near the end of April, the Bartlett Garden Club holds an annual plant sale, with members bringing in plants to sell to each other and the public; Ethel McPherson, a member since 1950, has said, "This is one of the ways the club serves Bartlett. There is no way to know how many of our plants have gone out to make the city and its gardens more beautiful"; and

WHEREAS, the Bartlett Garden Club, in its seventy years, has indeed established an outstanding tradition of public service; current president, Robbieanna Smith, has said, "In the seventy years of the club's existence, horticulture has changed, old plants have been improved and new varieties have been developed, but the love of gardening that our members share has not changed"; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause in its deliberations to pay tribute to one of Tennessee's exemplary service organizations, the Bartlett Garden Club, as its officers and members celebrate this significant anniversary; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and congratulate the Bartlett Garden Club, which has splendidly and industriously served to beautify the community of Bartlett for seventy years, and wish its officers and members continued success in all their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.